

Message Text

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ACTION EB-11

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2689

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PASS USDA/ FAS FOR GRAIN & FEED DIV

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, EGEN, CA, AS, SF, EEC

SUBJECT: ESTIMATED GRAIN SUPPLIES AND SHIPMENTS

REF: STATE 125345, 115785, 127927, 127547, MONTEVIDEO 1978

1. JUNE 30, 1973 EXPORTABLE SUPPLIES OF WHEAT, RYE, CORN, BARLEY, SORGHUM, AND OATS ESTIMATED TO BE 2.0 MILLION, 3,000, 5.0 MILLION, 100,000, 1.5 MILLION AND 90,000 TONS, RESPECTIVELY.

2. THUS FAR ONLY CORN AND SORGHUM HARVEST COMPLETED AS OTHER CROPS HARVESTED NOV/ JAN. SOWINGS OF THESE CROPS INDICATE FOLLOWING

1973-74 OUTPUT IN METRIC TONS: WHEAT (7.2 MILLION), RYE (450,000), BARLEY (700,000), AND OATS (540,000). CORN HARVEST THIS APRIL WAS 9.8 MILLION TONS; AND SORGHUM OUTTURN, 4.0 MILLION TONS. RECENT GOA PRICE MEASURES, BAD WEATHER AND HIGH EXPORT TAXES COULD REDUCE NOV/ DEC HARVEST (ESPECIALLY WHEAT) BY SIGNIFICANT DEGREE.

3. BASED ON THESE TENTATIVE PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS, NEW CROP EXPORT

AVAILABILITIES IN M. T. ESTIMATED TO BE 2.5 MILLION FOR WHEAT, 50,000 FOR RYE, 5.8 MILLION FOR CORN, 100,000 FOR BARLEY, 1.8 MILLION FOR SORGHUM, AND 190,000 FOR OATS.

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4. UNLESS THE AMOUNT UNDERSIGNED WITH BRAZIL AND JAPAN DELAYED, BREAD WHEAT SUPPLIES SHOULD REMAIN TIGHT UNTIL NEW CROP SUPPLIES AVAILABLE (NOV). BREAD WHEAT STOCKS, HOWEVER, SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO MEET 3.5 MILLION TONS COMMITTED FOR CY1973. THE NATIONAL GRAIN BOARD SHOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IN MEETING THE 50,000 DURUM WHEAT SALE TO ALGERIA WITH LAST YEAR' S STOCKS AND SHOULD EASILY FILL ITS 58,#60 TON CORN SALE TO CUBA.

5. FORECASTED GRAIN EXPORTS BY QUARTER IN 1973-74 (000 M. T.)

GRAIN JUL/ SEP OCT/ DEC JAN/ MAR APR/ JUN

WHEAT	900	900	800	700
RYE	10	20	10	20
CORN	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,000
BARLEY	40	40	30	30
SORGHUM	600	400	150	400
OATS	40	30	30	30

ARGENTINA MAY NOT SHIP TO BRAZIL REMAINING 300,000 TON OF THE 1.3 MILLION TONS WHEAT AGREEMENT BEFORE THE END OF 1973 DUE TO INABILITY OF GRAIN BOARD TO ACQUIRE ADEQUATE STOCKS BEFORE NEW CROP OR DUE TO LIMITED PORT CAPACITY. IF AVAILABLE, AFOREMENTIONED QUANTITY COULD ALSO BE SHIPPED TO ALTERNATIVE DESTINATION(S). MOST OF THE CORN AND ALL OF THE SORGHUM FROM THIS YEAR' S CROP WILL PROBABLY BE SHIPPED PRIOR TO APRIL 1974. EXPORTS OF THESE TWO CROPS DURING THE LAST QUARTER OF FY74 (APR/ JUN) WILL DEPEND UPON MAR/ APR 74 HARVEST. HIGHER EXPORT TAXES FOR CORN AND SORGHUM COULD DEPRESS THE PRODUCER PRICE FOR THESE CROPS BY AN AMOUNT SUFFICIENT TO DETER INCREASED SOWING DURING NOVEMBER.

6. AS PER STATE 127927 AND MONTEVIDEO 1978 (APRIL 1) CORN HARVEST IN URUGUAY ESTIMATED AT 220,000 M. T. WHICH WILL SUFFICIENTLY COVER ALL DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION REQUIREMENTS. THEREFORE, NO IMPORTS REQUIRED.
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